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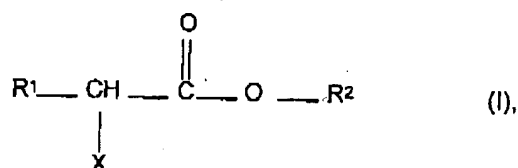
Application No. 10/524,850

Docket No.: 12810-00021-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing optically active 2-amino-, 2-chloro-, 2-hydroxy- or 2-alkoxy-1-alkanols by catalytically hydrogenating appropriate optically active 2-amino-, 2-chloro-, 2-hydroxy- and 2-alkoxycarboxylic acids or their acid derivatives, which comprises carrying out the hydrogenation in the presence of catalysts comprising palladium and rhenium or platinum and rhenium.

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein optically active 2-amino-, 2-chloro-, 2-hydroxy- or 2-alkoxycarboxylic acids or their esters of the formula I



where the radicals are defined as follows:

R¹: straight-chain or branched C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, C₇-C₁₂-aralkyl or C₆-C₁₀-aryl, each of which may be substituted by NR³R⁴, OH, and/or COOH ~~and/or further groups stable under the reaction conditions,~~

R²: hydrogen, straight-chain or branched C₁-C₁₂-alkyl or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl,

X: chlorine, NR⁵R⁶ or OR⁷,

R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶:

each independently hydrogen, straight-chain or branched C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, C₇-C₁₂-aralkyl, C₆-C₁₀-aryl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl in which one CH₂ group is replaced by O or NR⁸,

R³ and R⁴ and also R⁵ and R⁶:

also each independently together -(CH₂)_m-, where m is an integer from 4 to 7,

R¹ and R⁵:

also together -(CH₂)_n- where n is an integer from 2 to 6,

R⁷: hydrogen, straight-chain or branched C₁-C₁₂-alkyl or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl,

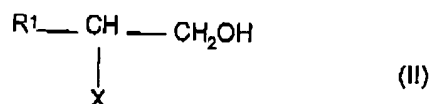
R¹ and R⁷:

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also together $-(CH_2)_n-$, where n is an integer from 2 to 6 and

R^a : hydrogen, straight-chain or branched C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl, C_7 - C_{12} -aralkyl or C_6 - C_{10} -aryl, or their acid anhydrides are used and hydrogenated to the corresponding optically active alcohols of formula II



in which R^1 and X are each as defined above.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the palladium/rhenium or platinum/rhenium catalysts comprise at least one element from the group of the elements titanium, vanadium, chromium, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, zirconium, molybdenum, silver, tin, tungsten, lead, lanthanum and cerium.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the palladium/rhenium or platinum/rhenium catalysts comprise at least one element from the group of the elements silver, molybdenum, tungsten and tin.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the palladium/rhenium or platinum/rhenium catalysts are used unsupported or applied to a support.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the palladium or platinum to rhenium is from 100:1 to 0.01:1.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the palladium or platinum to rhenium is from 50:1 to 0.05:1.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein the weight ratio of the palladium or platinum to the at least one element from the group of elements is from 100:1 to 10:1.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of an acid.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a temperature of from 30° to 140° []C.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula I is selected from the group consisting of phenylalanine, threonine, glutamic acid,

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proline, aspartic acid, alanine, ornithine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tartaric acid, lactic acid, 2-chloropropionic acid, malic acid and the acid derivatives of each thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the weight ratio of the palladium or platinum to the at least one element from the group of elements is from 100:1 to 10:1.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of an acid and at a temperature of from 30° to 140° C.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the 2-aminocarboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of phenylalanine, threonine, glutamic acid, proline, aspartic acid, alanine, ornithine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, the 2-hydroxycarboxylic acids are selected from tartaric acid, lactic acid or malic acid, and the 2-chlorocarboxylic acid is 2-chloropropionic acid.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the palladium or platinum to rhenium is from 10:1 to 0.1:1.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the weight ratio of the palladium or platinum to rhenium is from 10:1 to 0.1:1.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing optically active 2-amino-, 2-chloro-, 2-hydroxy- or 2-alkoxy-1-alkanols by catalytically hydrogenating ~~appropriate~~ optically active, 2-substituted-carboxylic acids selected from the group consisting of 2-amino-, 2-chloro-, 2-hydroxy- and 2-alkoxycarboxylic acids or the acid derivatives of each thereof, which comprises carrying out the hydrogenation in the presence of an unsupported bimetallic catalyst comprising palladium and rhenium or platinum and rhenium, wherein the catalysts are prepared from the mixtures of platinum oxide or palladium oxide, and rhenium oxide in the presence of a reducing agent.

18. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 17, wherein the 2-aminocarboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of phenylalanine, threonine, glutamic acid, proline, aspartic acid, alanine, ornithine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, the 2-hydroxycarboxylic acids are selected from tartaric acid, lactic acid or malic acid, and the 2-chlorocarboxylic acid is 2-chloropropionic acid.

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DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 2, and 17 are currently amended.

Claims 3-16 and 18 were previously presented.

Upon entry of the amendment claims 1-18 will be active.

The amendments are supported by the claims as previously presented.

No new matter has been added.